

TAR HEEL TALK

N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Summer 2018

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FEATURES

Summer Reading	2
60th Anniversary	6
Friends Corner	8
Volunteer Spotlight	11
Phone Book Club	14
Sidewalk Ends	16

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA



STATE LIBRARY
of NORTH CAROLINA

BEHIND THE CURTAINS OF SUMMER READING

WITH CATHERINE & GINA

Each Summer, the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped hosts two Summer Reading programs; one is for adults the other is for kids. The program runs from June 1st to August 31st each year and participants who met the minimum requirement for books read that summer receive a prize. However, our patrons that are in the top 3 of each category and division earn the top prizes, gift cards! Our patrons enjoy Summer Reading and our staff enjoys making sure the program goes smoothly. I interviewed Catherine Rubin, Assistant Regional Librarian, and Gina Powell, Outreach and Volunteer Services Librarian, about how they run their Summer Reading programs. Catherine is responsible for the Adults Summer Reading program and Gina is responsible for the Kids Summer Reading program.

“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH), State Library of North Carolina, and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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How is it that you began running the Adults/Kids Summer Reading program?

Catherine: There was a summer reading program a number of years before this—before Gina and I were here. But the previous one had not been continued. Carl, the Regional Director, encouraged us to resurrect such a program. Gina spearheaded the effort to get it going again. We had a committee composed of Gina, a reader advisor, and myself, and we discussed how we'd go about it. According to my notes, we started planning a reading program in 2010 but the first reading program was in 2011. Gina took on the kids' summer reading and I took on the adult summer reading. We've always used whatever the general reading themes for kids and adults that are used in public libraries across the US. The theme for adults was "Novel Destinations." We had prizes in both adults' and kids' programs for top readers I think we had about 50 adult par-



ticipants register for that first program. Gina planned a summer reading event for the kids at Governor Morehead School on June 24, 2011 featuring an island cruise theme with islands Hawaii, Japan, Ireland, Haiti and different foods and music. It was very creative.

Gina: In 2008 and 2009 I attended Youth Services conferences in several cities. Summer Reading programs were a big topic. I was impressed with all the ideas that attendees generated. I felt that if other public libraries were doing Summer Reading programs for kids that our kids deserved a Summer Reading program too.

What challenges did you face trying to start the Summer Reading program?

Catherine: Figuring out the best way to keep track of participants' reading. Coming up with rules. Figuring out how best to get everyone signed up in our computer system and track peoples' reading. Deciding how best to pro-

mote the programs. Finally, Deciding how best to acknowledge participants and come up with prizes

Gina: 2009 was the first year that we had had a Summer Reading program for kids in about 20 years, so I was starting from

scratch. Also, figuring out a program that was suitable for kids of all ages and varying abilities. In addition, we didn't have a budget for Summer Reading programs then.

What is significant to you about running the Summer Reading program?

Catherine: This program is significant because it's meant to encourage not just top readers but all participants to read more. Because reading in whatever book format—whether it's audio or large print or braille—really is beneficial to everyone in so many ways. It's entertaining, and readers can also learn a great deal from books and broaden their perception of the world.

Gina: What is most significant to me is that we are offering our kids a Summer Reading program like regular public libraries. I think our library should offer more than just books to read.



What would you like to say to patrons who have never participated in a Summer Reading program?

Catherine: Summer reading programs provide fun ways to try to set new goals for yourself to read more and to branch out and read different kinds of books that you've never tried before. It's also fun to be able to talk about the books to friends or neighbors or family.

Gina: I'd like to tell kids that books can be fun to read. Also, they have an opportunity to win prizes. They only have to read five books to win a prize, and top readers win gift cards. Reading during the summer helps them maintain and increase their reading skills, so reading will be easier in the next school year. ■

TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

- Please be sure to return cartridges in the container that matches the book or magazine.
- If you receive large print or audio magazines, please return them to the library when you are finished reading them.
- If there is a problem with a cartridge or the cartridge is missing, put a note in the case or a rubber band around the damaged cartridge. Please do not write on the cartridge, case, or any labels on these items.
- If you often replace your smartphone, there is a maximum number of devices you can have registered with BARD. Please notify us when you get a new phone so we can delete the old one from your account.

60 YEARS OF NCLBPH

In September of 1958 the library was founded as the North Carolina Regional Library for the Blind and was located in the Mansion Park Building on Blount Street in Raleigh. That following January the library became part of the State Library of North Carolina and served just under 900 patrons with books recorded on 33 1/3 records. At that time Braille was only circulated by the National Library Service for the Blind located in Washington, D.C. In 1966 the library had its first move to 1124 Hillsborough Street and Congress amended the Pratt-Smoot Act of 1931 granting persons with physical handicaps eligibility for our services. In the 70's, NCLBPH began producing locally recorded and braille materials with the help of volunteers



and the Special Projects Branch (now known as Volunteer Services) was formed. The library was damaged by arson fire and in 1977 the library relocated to 1841 Capital Boulevard and it has been here ever since!

Between then and now, the library has gone through renovations, formed a Friends group, and has seen staff members come and go. For sixty years, the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has provided accessible books for North Carolina residents who are not able to use traditional print media.



This September 13th the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will celebrate its 60th anniversary at our library, and we're inviting patrons, volunteers, librarians, senior centers, and institutions to join us for this for this event.

The Open House will go from 9am to 5pm when we close. At 10am, one of our Reader Advisors, Clay Griffith, will read from one of his books, Vampire Empire. At 12pm one of our patrons, James Longmire, will give a musical performance. We will have more music at 2pm and our final event will be at 4pm with Ira Knight, an author from North Carolina, will read from one of his works. There will be group tours given all day, refreshments and fellowship all day long, we would love for as many people to come and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the library.

To RSVP, please call us at 919-733-4376 or RSVP by emailing Gina.Powell@ncdcr.gov. ■



2015 vs 2018





Friends of the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Hello to all of my Friends!

As many of you know, the Friends organization recently held elections for Board members, and I am pleased to announce that we have three new Board members who started serving on our Board July 1, 2018. Below is a brief bio for each one of them.

Max Bumgardner lives in Canton, NC. He has been a member of many committees and has held a number of offices in the Lions organization. He is a Past District Governor for his area. He has also been involved with a variety of community organizations such as the county school board, county and state DSS board, Jaycees, and United Way.

Dawson Hart lives in Granite Falls, NC. He has held positions on a number of boards related to

blindness including Lions, the NC National Federation of the Blind and Industries

for the Blind Solutions. He is also a patron of Library services.



Marsha Williams lives in Morehead City, NC. Marsha has worked as a graphic artist and a commercial fisherman. Since losing her vision in 2010, she has become a leader in her local VI support group. She provides technology assistance to other visually impaired individuals and shares information about LBPH, Aids and Appliances, and other resources.

We are very pleased to have these new Board members join us, and we look forward to working with them and having them

share the outstanding mission of the Friends organization.

I am also pleased to announce the following Board members who have been elected to serve either their second term or serving in their new office: Sharon Benton, Vice President; Debbie Meadows, Secretary; and Members at Large- Miriam Dixon, Susan King, and Jill McMillan.

WELCOME to all of the Board members, and I look forward to a terrific upcoming year!

By the time you read this, we will have missed the actual Friendship Day which is the first Sunday in August. However, I mention this to say Happy Friendship Day to you. The Friends Board really thanks each of you for being a member and for your financial support of this organization. You are a valued Friend, and we hope

you will continue to renew your membership each year.

At the bottom of this page is the link to the application to become a Friend, so maybe you can share this with someone you know and ask them to join our organization. Share our website www.friendsnclbph.org with them so they can check out our mission to support and enhance the services and programs of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

We wish the best to you for the rest of your summer.

- Eddie Weaver, President ■

Membership Online Application

To learn more about becoming a member of the Friends of NCLBPH click the link below:

<https://www.friendsnclbph.org/membership.php>

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Marsha Williams

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Regional Librarian – NCLBPH

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: WAFFA

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped offers different services to its patrons. Many services are possible thanks to our volunteers. One of our many volunteers is Waffa. She is one of the volunteer reviewers at NCLBPH. Whenever our library produces a book or magazine, our volunteers go through months to prepare them. A team consisting of a narrator and a monitor begin recording the book. The narrator reads the text and the monitor follows along with the narrator as they are reading. Each session is about two hours long so it will take a couple of weeks to finish. Once the recording is complete, a reviewer will listen carefully to the recording to see if there are any mistakes that were missed by the monitor and narrator. Waffa has been reviewing for NCLBPH for years, so we wanted to give her a spotlight:



Can you tell me what your experience has been as reviewer?

I enjoy it. I hate to say it, but I enjoy finding faults. Even when I borrow a book from the library, I sometimes find grammatical errors, I'll correct them, and tell them when I turn them in. The next person to read it will find it corrected.

What do your duties include?

It's not so much find grammatical errors, because the magazine has been edited before, so what I'm really looking for is mistakes in the recording. Sometimes people have a preconceived idea how specific words are pronounced. They read it the first time and may pronounce it incorrectly throughout the passage.

What are things you enjoy about reviewing?

The first thing is I really gain knowledge from different magazines. The other thing is, I don't like to see mistakes, even when I was younger. I get some satisfaction when I can correct a mistake.

What are things you find challenging about reviewing?

As much as I enjoy pointing out the mistakes in the recordings, I'm sure people don't take it so easily, but I try to find the nicest way possible to let them know. The real challenge is a word that nobody can pronounce, so I have to find a dictionary that so the correct pronunciation and things of that nature. I've never been a teacher but I get the teacher part out of me when finding a mistake.

How long have you been a volunteer for the NCLBPH?

I can't remember. At the beginning, it was only through the summer because I was a 10-month employee, so I would

come and volunteer during the summer once a week. I can't remember how long ago that was. Maybe less than 7 or 8 years. After I retired, I volunteer on a weekly basis.

What made you interested in volunteering for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped specifically?

I have no idea. I think I knocked on the door here and found out it was possible, but what lured me into here I don't remember that.

What is it that keeps you wanting to volunteer your services?

I worked with the visually impaired for almost 30 years. So, I want to do anything that I can do to help make things easier and better for them. I want what they enjoy reading to be worth their time by being correct.

What has been some of your best experiences while you have been volunteering here?

Shawn was the volunteer coordinator before Margaret. Shawn was excellent at her job as



volunteer coordinator. Shawn eventually finished her studies in library science and sadly ran away from us. That's when Margaret came along. Margaret performs her job excellently as well. Both are loveable and very kind and when I had questions I respect their opinions.

What are some of the things you enjoy doing besides volunteering?

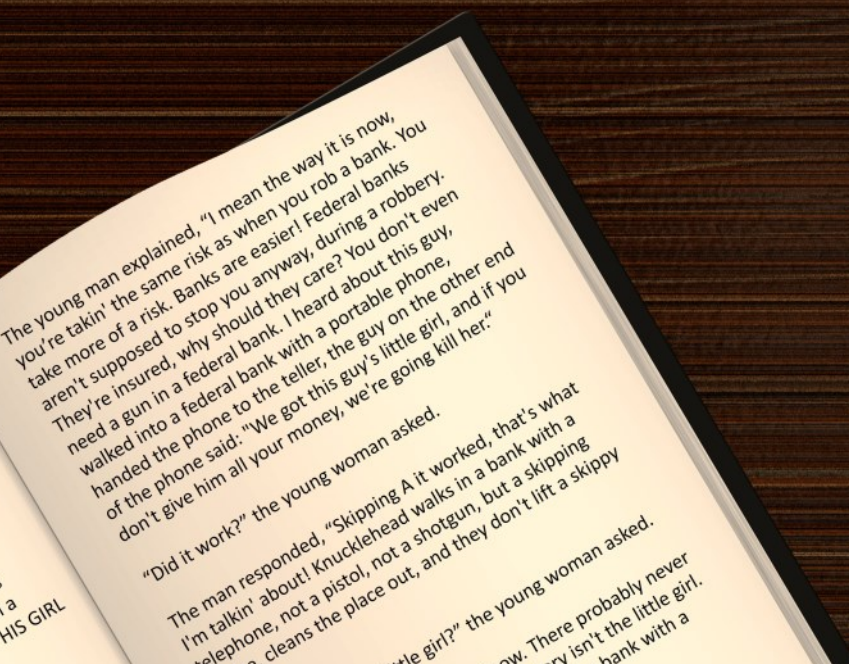
I like reading. Sadly, I don't have that much time to read. I had more time working full time than when I retired. I like going to church and listening to church hymns whenever I have time.

Do you have a message for patrons of our library?

Make use as much as you can of the services that your library provides. They provide you with so many books and magazines that you can enjoy in many facets of life. They give you all kinds of readings you can enjoy and make use of multiple books to read and magazines that are useful. ■

CHARLOTTE PHONE-IT-IN BOOK CLUB

As many of our patrons may already know, we have a book club that meets at our library on the first Friday of each month. It is known as our Very Important Patron (VIP) Book Club and it has met for several years. Even though we serve all of North Carolina and would enjoy having more patrons join our VIP Book Club we are located in Raleigh and the drive from Wilkesboro, Pittsboro, Tarboro, Goldsboro, Asheboro, Vanceboro, Roxboro, Wadesboro, or Murfreesboro might not be worth the enticing hour and a half discussion as well as the delicious snacks. While we have recently begun recording our discussions and putting them on our website so other patrons may listen, it's not the same as joining the discussion. So, we began efforts to create a distance book club in the Charlotte area. One of our Reader Advisors, Sarah Brackett, has taken on this great task and I was able to ask her a few questions about this new Charlotte Phone-It-In Book Club.



What made you want to spear head the Charlotte book club?

I am new to this library and was looking for a niche to fill. This book club is something that had been discussed before my arrival, and lacked staffing. I was happy to volunteer.

What is your goal in starting this book club?

My goal is to create a space for patrons in Charlotte to get together for a book discussion from the comfort of home. My long-term goal is for this program to be extended to other areas outside of Charlotte.

When will this book club congregate?

The book club will meet every third Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

How will you select what books you'll read?

The first five or six books will be chosen by myself (with a possible survey taken at the end of every session). After the initial books, book club members will be encouraged to propose books for the club to read and discuss.

What kind of bumps in the road

did you experience developing this book club?

This process has been remarkably easy. The hardest part is scheduling a time to meet with the other members of the book club planning committee. I'm sure there will be hiccups in the first few months, but I have read about similar pilot programs in other libraries and will attempt to minimize the bumps from their experiences.

How can one participate in the book club?

Simply call the library (888)-388-2460 and ask to be added to the waitlist for the book club. Once on the list for the club simply call the number given to you at the appointed time. It is as easy as a phone call. ■



WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS: NCLBPH IN CHARLOTTE!

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will host an event at the Charlotte Mecklenburg County Library where we will have three guest speakers. Our first speaker will be Trevor Thomas, the only blind professional long-distance hiker as well as a patron of NCLBPH. Thomas will talk about his experiences hiking state and national parks throughout the United States, such as the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. Our other speaker will be Ray Bloomer who will appear via Skype from Indiana. Bloomer is the Director of Education and Technical Assistance at the National Center for Accessibility, which is a part of the National Park Service at Indiana University – Bloomington. Bloomer will discuss his work in making numerous national parks and monuments more accessible throughout the United States such as the



Gateway Arch, the Jefferson Memorial, the White House Visitor Center and more. Our last speaker will be Kelley King. She is the Park Superintendent for Haw River State Park and will provide a “Frog Calls” program where she brings items that emulate frog calls, and where the audience becomes part of the pond. She will bring frog replicas that attendees can touch/look or pass around



after the program. She will also talk about adaptive programs available through NC State Parks.

This will be the first time we're having a program in Charlotte, and it was quite the massive undertaking. Our Assistant Regional Director, Catherine Rubin, organized



this event. Our partners making this service available for our patrons include, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Libraries, the Metrolina Association for the Blind, North Carolina State Parks, and the National Center for Accessibility.

The program will be held on Saturday, October 13th, starting at 1 PM and will end around 3 PM and will be located at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library, Beatties Ford Branch. Registration will begin near mid September. Be sure to check our Events page on our website, Facebook, or Twitter for updates about registration information. Patrons in the Charlotte area will also receive information in the US mail. ■



